Focus

Washington Park Camera Club

www.WashingtonParkCameraClub.org

PSA Camera Clubs and Community Service

This month the *Journal's* occasional article entitled ***Focus,*** which features a member or member-club, turns to the **Washington Park Camera Club.**

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Working jointly with the Southeast Kiwanis Club, **The Washington Park Camera Club** (WPCC) of Chicago helped found a camera club at a local Chicago high school. The funding for the club was co-sponsored by WPCC and the Kiwanis. One of the biggest and most important projects that the students wanted to undertake was a yearbook for 2008. The school had not had a yearbook in four years due to lack of funds. Using donated software and supplies; the student camera club members were able to produce their very own yearbook. Some of the students attended the WPCC year-end banquet in June and presented a copy as a gift to the club. WPCC and the Kiwanis raised money for the yearbook project by holding a fundraiser at the annual *Kiwanis Installation Banquet*. The portrait experts in the club, **Artie Harris** and others, brought a laptop, printers, strobe lighting and a backdrop to set up a portrait shoot. Camera club members took photos and printed them on the spot for banquet attendees to purchase at a nominal cost.

WPCC, now in its 51st year, holds club meetings in the Washington Park District Field House. In lieu of paying rent, the camera club takes photos for local youth sports teams and pictures are donated to the teams. There is an exciting bonus for the photographers: when the varsity football team makes the finals, the club receives four press passes to attend the game and walk the sidelines at Soldier Field, home of the Chicago Bears!

The Club is one of 36 members of the Chicago Area Camera Club Association (CACCA). The Club meets every Tuesday from September through June. This year they plan to continue meeting every week through the summer months.

WPCC is planning projects for the fall to raise funds to continue working with the community. Member **Paul Carson**, who is involved with both the student group and the Kiwanis, says "We hope to buy better cameras for the students. Our ultimate goal is to sponsor student photographs to the Youth Showcase of the Photographic Society of America."

Portrait masters

WP Cheerleaders at Mum Bowl